

"Every day, as long as this 'today' lasts,
keep encouraging one another" (Heb 3:13)

May 21st 2023
7th Sunday after Easter
Readings p. 273

, Acts 1:12-14 All joined in continuous prayer
1 Peter 4: 13-16 It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ
Anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in Him.
Gospel: John 17: 14 - 18:
Father glorify your son

Holy Father,
Keep those you
have given me
true to your
name



Psalm 102

Today we hear of Jesus' prayer for us. As Jesus was sent, so too we are sent to continue his mission and spread his love. Key to continuing Jesus' mission we are told that although we are of this world we must not to be possessed or tied down by worldly concerns.

How should it feel to be entrusted with such an important job? Well for most of us, it is something we don't think about nearly enough. We are told not to let the world tie us down, but that's most definitely easier said than done. In truth we are very much of this world. We spend most of our lives worrying about work, money, illness, relationships and commitments. It's very hard to rise above worldly concerns. In fact for most of us it just seems impossible.

On this Sunday we celebrate World Communication Day, and it feels a timely opportunity to consider the task we have been set. The first disciples continued Jesus' mission without planes, trains, without a postal service, without TV or radio and without the internet. Yet thanks to these early disciples we know Jesus' name throughout the entire globe two thousand years down the line. We have a much easier job than the early disciples had. Now all we need is a little bit of their drive and passion. So how can we capture some of that motivation?

For most of us, the day to day job of putting meals on the table takes up more of our time than the vital job of continuing Jesus' mission. Yet we all know someone who manages to strike that all important balance. We all know at least one person who sets a shining example. Perhaps it's here that we will find our motivation. Perhaps the people we most admire provide us with a model of who we ourselves would like to be. With a good example to emulate and our twenty first century means to spread God's love, change is not beyond any of us.

When family and friends gather after the departure of a loved one from this life, I have always found them recalling memories of the one who is gone. I imagine the apostles and Mary recalling incidents and stories of Jesus. They would have recognised how privileged they were to have seen and heard so much. Thanksgiving would have been part of their prayer.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

Taking today's psalm as a guide we can highlight three divine blessings they had witnessed in the life of Jesus.

For the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him.

In the life of Jesus they had seen divine love clad in human flesh: love that never gets embittered, is always ready to forgive, and generous to the point of total self-sacrifice.

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.

In Jesus they had seen the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. *His kingdom is ruling over all.*

In the ministry of Jesus they had seen Satan cast out, evil conquered and the reign of God offered to all people. They were to be workers in the kingdom. Full of hope, they waited for the promised power from on high.

Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth.

Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton - Tel: (01257) 262665

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday May 21 23

Sun: 7th Sunday after Easter

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Richard & Ann Barrow

Mon: Saint Rita of Cascia

9.30.am. Maurice Kobelt

Tues: Weekday of Easter

9.30.am: Raymond Garland

Wed: Easter Weekday

9.30.am. Private Intention

Thurs: St.Bede the Venerable

9.30.am. Vincent Paul Kieran

Fri: St. Philip Neri

7.00.pm. Thanksgiving

Sun: Pentecost Sunday

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Jean Mary Telford

0771 942 7926 (only for emergency use)

Confessions

At your request

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Confessions

At your request

Cemetery

There have been a lot of improvements in the cemetery recently. But the one we need to improve is grass cutting.

We have the mowers, all we need are volunteers

Mass intentions received

Tomas & Elizabeth Drinkwater 11/6/20/23

We pray for the Sick, especially the sick of the parish including Ryan Troop; Catherine Thompson; Maureen Beardsworth; Thomas Halligan.

World Communications Day 2023 Speaking with the heart. "The truth in love" (Eph 4: 15)

Touching even the most hardened hearts "In a world that 'so inclined towards indifference and indignation', at times even on the basis of disinformation which falsifies and exploits the truth, it is particularly important there is space for proclaiming the truth, even if at times it is uncomfortable." Pope Francis calls for words capable of doing good for others and of touching even the "most hardened of hearts." He exhorts communicators, even in our dramatic global climate, to convey the "gentle strength of love." While the message is primarily geared toward those working in communications, Pope Francis highlight that everyone has the responsibility to communicate "with an open heart and arms."

Monday Saint Rita of Cascia In 1710 Saint Rita was first described as the 'advocate of

impossible causes'. In fact, St Rita's life was a series of trials that she managed to overcome thanks to her trust and faith. In particular we remember how she turned her violent husband to God. We remember her courage and patience, and pray for her intervention when we face impossible and violent circumstances.

Thursday Day of Prayer for Missing Children There is nothing we all want to hear more, than a happy conclusion to a missing child case. But for many parents around the world the pain of uncertainty endures year in and year out. On this day we are all asked to pray for missing children and for their families. We pray for a happy conclusion, or where this is not possible, at least for closure and eventual peace.

"You are not here merely to make a living. You are here to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, and with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world. You impoverish yourself if you forget this errand."